

REMARKS

Claims 120-123 have been added and are directed to embodiments of the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action sets forth a restriction and species election requirement. Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group 2 (Claims 39-49, 67, 68, 72, 73, 78, 85, 116, and 117, as renumbered by the Office Action). Applicants elect the species identified in claim 120. Claims 120-123 read on the elected species. Claims 39-41, 43, 49, 67, 68, 78, 85, and 116-117 are generic. Claims 120-121 belong to Group 2 and claims 122-123 belong to Group 5.

The Office Action states that in the event that Group 2 is elected and claims therein found allowable, the corresponding method of use claims (Group 5) will be rejoined therewith for further examination. Applicants appreciate the proposed rejoinder.

The available evidence does not support that there exists a serious burden to consider and examine the claims of all groups together in this application. There is a likelihood that search results would overlap. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

A favorable decision is solicited. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Xavier Pillai, Ph.D., Reg. No. 39,799
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: February 20, 2004